



LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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Mayor establishes commission to identify priorities, monitor expenditures of possible stimulus funds

Mayor Jim Newberry today established the Mayor's Commission on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan, a group that will provide recommendations on federal funding Lexington may receive through a plan President Obama is designing to stimulate the economy and create jobs.

The plan, now a bill that is working its way through Congress, proposes funding for important projects in cities and counties across the country. The projects must be completed in a two-year period.

At the request of the Obama transition team, Newberry and other community leaders compiled a list of local projects and submitted them for funding, as did communities across the country. Lexington's list included 196 projects totaling \$556 million.

“These are important projects for our community that we have been unable to afford,” Newberry said. “Of course, we won’t get everything on this list, but we think we have the opportunity to receive significant funding. It’s important that our community be prepared to spend the funding we receive wisely.”

The goals of the commission, which meet in open session, will be to:

- ☐ Provide recommendations to the Mayor, Council and community for how any available funds should be spent.
- ☐ Monitor the expenditure of those funds to ensure the optimum public benefit.
- ☐ Develop means by which the public can access information about the status of projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan.

Although he said he may appoint other members, the initial 17 appointees include Jim Newberry, Chair; City Senior Adviser Joe Kelly; Acting Commissioner of Public Works Mike Webb; Commissioner of Environmental Quality Cheryl Taylor; Commissioner of Finance and Administration Kyna Koch; Public Safety Commissioner Tim Bennett; Vice Mayor Jim Gray; 11th District Councilmember Peggy Henson; 6th District Councilmember Kevin Stinnett; and 12th District Councilmember Ed Lane.

Appointees from the community include 79th District State Rep. Susan Westrom; 88th District State Rep. Bill Farmer; Commerce Lexington Vice President for Community and Minority Business Development Tyrone Tyra; Urban League Administrator of Development David Cozart; Executive Director

of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Housing Authority Austin Simms;
University of Kentucky Assistant Vice President for Community Engagement
Lisa Higgins-Hord; and United Way President Kathy Plomin.